LOADSTAR LETTER

Number 31 ○ February 1996

Walt Harned Churns Out Another C-64 Art Exhibition!

Check it out! Birds of Prey, on side three of this issue. More birds than you can shake a stick at. Then again, you'd have to have a death wish to shake any sticks at these birds, especially the Bald Eagle. Not only can these birds take care of themselves, they could probably take care of an unarmed human threat pretty well.,

SuperCPU 64/10 Model Cancelled. 20MHZ Model Still Slated.

From CMD's Web page: Advanced orders for the SuperCPU have been instrumental in helping us track the demand for this product. Due to the extremely low percentage of orders we have received for the 10 MHz version of this product, however, we cannot justify the extra costs involved in stocking parts for this version. We have therefore decided to eliminate the 64/10, and from this point forward we will only accept orders for the 64/20 model.

SuperCPU 128 Announced

From Cmd's Web page: The most significant announcement is that we have determined that a C-128 version of the accelerator will be released. This decision has been based on the overwhelming number of requests we have received from C-128 users. Due to this response, we are confident that sufficient demand for a 128 version exists, and that we can justify the expense associated with its development.

The specifications of the C-128 version will be virtually identical to its C-64 counterpart, and will support both C-64 and C-128 modes. Naturally, the SuperCPU 128 will have additional RAM, ROM and custom logic to support these capabilities.

Co-Development In order to accommodate the development of the C-128 version, our engineers have had to alter their initial development schedule to allow additional time to co-develop portions of the C-128 version. Due to this we estimate that an additional six to eight weeks will be required, which will push initial deliveries for the C-64 version into April (the C-128 version should be available approximately 90 days later).

The main thrust of this co-development is to attempt to utilize the same PC board for both the C-64 and C-128 versions. If we are successful with this approach, we can reduce the overall development cost of the C-128 version by amortizing many of the fixed costs associated with the design and production over both versions.

While we may be able to use the same circuit board for both units, the chip sets for the two versions will be substantially different, and this may prohibit our ability to upgrade a 64 version to a 128 version. In addition, the extra circuitry required to produce the C-128 version may effect the retail price of this unit by as much as $100.00. Our goal is to keep the cost of the C-128 version below $300.00, but a firm estimate will not be available until later in the development cycle. Until then, we will not be taking advanced orders on the C-128 version.

A Better Product Overall With the additional development time we believe that both the C-64 and C-128 versions will benefit. This time allows us to explore the possibility of additional features and capabilities which had previously been scrapped due to the tight development schedule. Additional information will be released as we are able to confirm the feasibility of these additional features.

Although we're disappointed that our initial production schedule for the C-64 version cannot be met, we're excited about the potential this decision brings to the Commodore market. By supporting the C-128 platform, we believe that we will see more third party development as a whole, which will benefit both C-64 and C-128 users by further strengthening our market.

Any questions concerning the SuperCPU series products should be channelled to CMD via mail or E-mail using the addresses listed below. We will not be fielding questions about these products by phone until such time as the designs have been finalized.

Mail Inquiries: SuperCPU Inquiries c/o Creative Micro Designs, Inc. P.O. Box 646 East Longmeadow, MA 01028-0646

Threshold Not Accepting Plastic

Press Release from Threshhold. Recently we have been getting a steady flow of people sending letters with credit card numbers and wanting to order software. At the moment Threshold can't handle these orders, it isn't within our budget to pay monthly for a credit card service. We are sorry for the inconvenience this will cause, but with time we will carry the service. For now we accept orders in these fashions:

Money Orders - Next day shipping. Made out for US funds only.
Checks - A waiting period of 7 days before order shipped.
Must be a check from a US bank.
Cash - Only if you can't do either of the above, please!
US funds only.

Threshold Productions, 17730 15th NE Suite #229 / Seattle, WA 98155. tpinfo@eskimo.com I-206-361-1332

Note that LOADSTAR does not recommend *ever* sending cash in the mail, even to your dear old mum. Even if a company says that it accepts cash, it's no guarantee that it will reach the company through the mail, even if well wrapped. The postal service itself warns that some of its workers have a keen sense of how cash feels, even when folded inside a letter. ❑

CMD Developing a New 128 Term?

While surfing the net, I stumbled upon a call from CMD to potential beta testers. They said they were "*currently compiling a list of possible beta testers for a Commodore 128 telecommunications program. Approved applicants will receive the software via e-mail, and will be required to report weekly on the details of their testing*"

The deadline for applications has passed, but we're glad to see another new CMD product on the horizon.

Escom Serious About Reviving C-64 In Germany? Look Again.

In a reply to a hopeful post last month, *Amiga Report* replied publicly:

"Escom AG did buy the Commodore assets, including the C64. But their plans to manufacture the 64 for sale in EASTERN Europe and Asia have hit the snag that their manufacturer in China told them it would take a year to ramp up for anything.

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LOADSTAR® MONTHLY

LOADSTAR is a monthly "magazine on disk" for the Commodore 64/128. Subscribers receive two 1541 disks (or one 1581 disk) in their mailbox every month *packed* with news, articles and programs. These non-PD, high-quality programs are written by the best home-based programmers in the field and edited by the crack LOADSTAR team of Fender Tucker and Jeff Jones. Subscription prices are at an all-time low of $69.95 for a 12-month subscription, or $19.95 for a three-month subscription. You may also elect to subscribe "by the month," where we charge your credit card $7.95 for each issue after it's shipped. We also offer the long line of standalone products below.

The Compleat PRINT SHOP I: (The Print Shop by Broderbund or Printmaster required). Over 1300 artistic and never before published PRINT SHOP images. The smart, fast software package included allows you to quickly scan through the many PRINT SHOP images sequentially, by name, or by group number. Press a key and save the graphic you want in 2-block, 3-block and even PRINTMASTER graphic files! All that plus a printed guide to your new sea of graphic files. And if you like the first volume, you'll probably want to get your hands on **The Compleat PRINT SHOP II,** which also contains over 1300 PRINT SHOP images, previously published on LOADSTAR issues over the past ten years. Included is the same smart, fast software package included in The Compleat PRINT SHOP I. Each volume is $20.00. **Volume 1: C-64/128 3.5-inch disk item #0001d3. 5.25-inch disks item #0009d5. Volume 2: C-64/128 3.5-inch disk item #0002d3. 5.25-inch disks item #0010d5.**

The Compleat Programmer: Become the Commodore programmer you've always wanted to be! Megabytes of knowledge crammed and stuffed onto eight 5.25-inch disks or two 1581 disks! Plus we include all the tools, extensions, languages, assemblers, tutorials and utilities you'll need to create the same type of software you see on LOADSTAR! This massive collection is way over two megabytes of instructional text and valuable tools. **5.25 set #0005D5. 3.5-inch disk #0005D3. For $5 more, get C= Hacking MAG #0006D3 (on 3.5-inch disks only and NOT available separately)** to complete your programming set. $20.00

The Compleat Maurice: A compilation of 26 solitaire card games written by Maurice Jones, the acknowledged master of card game simulations for the C-64/128. There's even a brand new, never before published game called Boomerang. **Two 5.25 inch disks #0007D5 or one 3.5 inch disk #0007D3. $20.00 postage paid!**

The Compleat Dave: Two 1581 disks or three 1541 disks crammed with SID music. Over 250 classic melodies from yesteryear, arranged and transcribed by the Master of Music, Dave Marquis, and now they're available in one gigantic 8-hour collection. If you enjoy SID music, you owe it to yourself to get THE COMPLEAT DAVE. **Two 1581 disks #070523 Three 1541 disks #070525. $20.00 postage paid!**

The Compleat Walt: During LOADSTAR's first ten years we have published 24 of Walt Harned's slideshows and multimedia events. Now we've gathered them into one huge collection: seven 5.25 inch disks or three 3.5 inch disks! There are over 250 pictures, including some that have never been published. The greatest one-man collection of art on any computer platform! As this example picture, taken from The Clowns Of LOADSTAR shows, Walt knows how to push a C-64 to its limits and create stunning art. **5.25-inch disks order #070425 3.5-inch disks order #070423. $20.00 postage paid!**

The Compleat Roger: 25 educational quiz programs, each carefully crafted by Roger Norton, an educator who uses C-64's. These programs come crammed on two 5.25-inch 1541 disks or one 1581 disk. 5.25 set #0004D5 3.5-inch disk #0004D3. $20.00 postage paid!

GEOS Clipart

LOADSTAR presents the biggest Geos collection of clip art and fonts ever offered at one time. All of the Geos art that's ever appeared on LOADSTAR, as well as some great files from Geos fanatic Dick Estel, are available on twenty 5.25 inch disks or eight 3.5 inch disks. Most of this has never been seen before! Use these graphics in your GeoPaint, GeoWrite and GeoPublish documents or convert to FGM with FGM utilities. Spiff up your GeoFAX documents with the appropriate graphic -- every time! Prices are $20 for any two 3.5 inch disks, or any five 5.25 inch disks. You can purchase the whole collection for $75 for either version. Call LOADSTAR toll-free at 1-800-594-3370 or 1-318-221-8718 to order by credit card. Or send check or money order and specify (by LG number) which disks you want.

5.25-INCH DISKS

Disk 01 - RAILS: Railroad art from Europe and the USA **#0012D5**

Disk 02 - VEHICLES/TAROT: Artwork of old and new autos; excellent geoPaint drawings of the Tarot card set **#0013D5**

Disk 03 - CLIP ART: Includes converted MacPaint files that have never before been available in Commodore format **#0014D5**

Disk 04 - OTTOWA/PRIME CLIPS: Artwork of the main landmarks of Ottowa; plus high quality public domain clip art **#0015D5**

Disk 05 - FONTS: More than 30 fonts from past issues of LOADSTAR, plus articles (in geoWrite format) on creating fonts. Also two ready-made headers for use with your own documents, one a picture of a mail truck; the other reading FROM THE DESK OF **#0016D5**

Disk 06, Disk 07, and **Disk 08** - geoPaint and Photo Album files with the great clip artwork featured on past LOADSTARS - Includes GeoCurmudgeon, Anamalia I and II, Australian Animals, Valentine art and many more **#0017D5, #0018D5, #0019D5**

Disk 09 - GOODYKOONTZ FILES - Jasper Goodykoontz, born in Indiana in 1855, produced Goodykoontz's Perpetual Calendar and General Reference Manual (A Book for the Millions). This disk includes scans from the book of a wide array of subjects -- Gestures and Attitudes, Poultry, Craniology, and more. **#0020D5**

Disk 10 - OLD WEST: Scanned Artwork from Dick Estel's FRD Software - mostly woodcut style art of the old west, gold rush days and pioneer scenes. **#0021D5**

Disk 11: J. Neely Art/Animals: Jennifer Neely works with a wide variety of subject matter and materials. Disk contains some of her favorites, scanned into geoPaint format. Side 2 is a collection of scanned artwork of animals from FRD Software **#0022D5**

Free Shipping! For Every Item on this Page!

Disk 12 - HOLIDAY: Artwork for New Years, Valentine's, St. Patrick's Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas **#0023D5**

Disk 13 - PEOPLE/FACES: Scenes of people and faces from FRD Software **#0024D5**

Disk 14 - FRD CLASSICS: Dick's choice of the best of the FRD collection **#0025D5**

Disk 15 - DINOS/CLASSICS: Dinosaurs and other prehistoric beasts, as well as more first choice artwork from FRD. **#0026D5**

Disk 16 - SPORTS/MISC: Dozens of sports-related clips **#0027D5**

Disk 17 - OFFICE AND SCHOOL: Clips to be used at work and around the house **#0028D5**

Disk 18 -MUSIC & MORE SCHOOL CLIPS #0029D5

Disk 19 - SEASONAL AND HOLIDAYS: A clip for any occasion **#0030D5**

Disk 20 - SEASONAL AND HOLIDAYS: A clip for any occasion **#0031D5**

3.5 INCH DISKS

The 3.5" disks are roughly equivalent to two and a half 5.25" disks.

Disk 1: Equals disks 1, 2, 4B #0009D3
Disk 2: Equals disks 3, 6, 7A #0010D3
Disk 3: Equals disks 5, 8, 7B #0011D3
Disk 4: Equals 9, 10, 11A #0012D3
Disk 5: Equals 12, 13, 11B #0013D3
Disk 6: Equivalent of Disks 14, 15 and some bonus files not on 5.25" disks **#0014D3**
Disk 7: Sports, Office and school, Music #015D3
Disk 8: Music, Holiday and Seasonal #016D3
For your convenience, GeoViewer is included on each volume. GEOS 2.0 is suggested.

LOADSTAR T-Shirts: Limited edition Fruit Of The Loom T-shirts are 50% Cotton and 50% Polyester, available in Small Medium, Large, X-large and XX-Large. Shirts are **$15.00 each** with **free** shipping! **Small #960025, Medium #960125, Large #960225, X-Large #960325, XX-L #960425**

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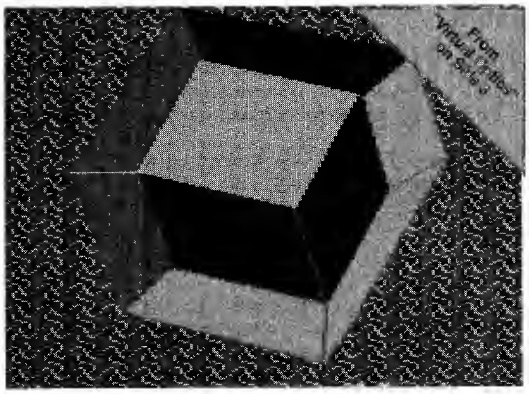

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These limited edition Fruit Of The Loom T-shirts are 50% Cotton and 50% Polyester, available in **S**mall **M**edium, **L**arge, **X**-large and **XX**-Large. Each shirt is **$15.00 each** with **free** shipping!

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Right now, it seems that all Escom has done is license the 64 ROMcode to Activision for their 64 Action Pack."
-- Jason Compton: jcompton@xnet.com Editor-in-Chief, Amiga Report Magazine, (708) 741-0689 FAX. AR on WWW - http://www.omnipresence.com/Amiga/News/AR

Using Gifs On The C64

From: Thomas Karlsen <sledge@algonet.se> On Thu, 11 Jan 1996 mello.med@shands.ufl.edu wrote:

I was wondering if anyone could help me out on this question? I understand that CompuServe developed GIF for a way for all computers to exchange pictures/graphic information. I know that you have to have a machine specific viewer such as VGIF64, and that the C64 is limited to only 16 colors but can you still view GIFs from an IBM etc. machine with a VGIF64 viewer? Do they have to be converted somehow? Can you view them even if they have 256 colors+?

Yes, there would be no problem to view pictures with more colors then 16. The viewer will "re-build" it so that it will look as good as possible. A better program to do so with pictures from PC and Amigas will be GoDot! a German developed program that works like Photoshop or Art Department Pro on PC and Amiga. You can scale, choose amount of colors and then even save it in IFLI format (320x200 with 16x16 colors on the C64). And that looks VERY good.

It has full CMD support and 64NET support. Works faster when a Flash8 or Super CPU 64 is added (when it comes). It costs 49.- DM (the full version with 64NET support and IFLI). There's also a Shareware version released, but then you will only be able to save in FLI (160x200 in 16colors). I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THE PROGRAM, you can't be without it and it has a very nice GUI implemented, very professional. The program can be ordered from:
Performance Peripherals Silcherstrasse 16 D-53332 Bornheim GERMANY Fax: +49-2227-3221

Tilde on C64?

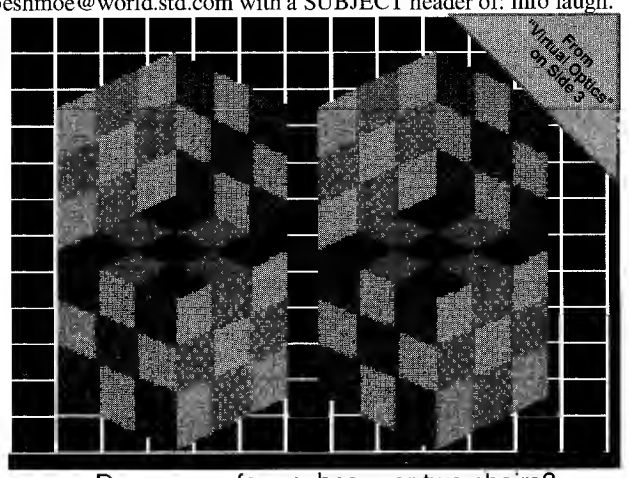
by Jim Brain. The tilde in standard ASCII is represented with the left arrow (<-) in PETSCII. Also, typing %7E where the tilde should go will always work (but requires two more keystrokes. The '%' char tell the browser that the next two hexadecimal characters are to be translated into the ASCII equivalent. So, my URL could be:

http://www.msen.com/%7Ebrain/cbmhome.html
This is the same as:
http://www.msen.com/~brain/cbmhome.html

Laugh Of The Day

A service of LaughWEB (http://www.misty.com/laughweb/). To subscribe to lotd, point your web browser to: http://world.std.com/~joeshmoe/laughweb/lotd_subscribe.html

To unsubscribe, send e-mail to majordomo@world.std.com, with text: unsubscribe lotd email_address Where "email_address" is the address you used when you subscribed to lotd. For more information about Laugh Of The Day or LaughWEB, send email to: joeshmoe@world.std.com with a SUBJECT header of: info laugh.



Do you see four cubes -- or two chairs?

IMMUTABLE LAWS OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT: LAW 1: No major project is ever completed on time, within budget, with the same staff that started it, nor does the project do what it is supposed to do. It is highly unlikely that yours will be the first. Corollary 1: The benefits will be smaller than initially estimated, if estimates were made at all. Corollary 2: The system finally installed will be completed late and will not do what it is supposed to do. Corollary 3: It will cost more but will be technically successful. LAW 2: One advantage of fuzzy project objectives is that they let you avoid embarrassment in estimating the corresponding costs.

Centsible Systems

We now have a listing of our Commodore hardware and software! For your free copy, send a self addressed, stamped envelope to:

Centsible Systems
7808 Jewella, Box 11
Shreveport, La. 71108
318-687-4613 Voice 318-687-0028 BBS

"Greetings to our many customers and user groups across the nation! We appreciate your friendly calls and letters and your patronage!"

...Bo Fain, Owner

Cleaning Computer Keyboards

By: SMS MIKE @ DMB. I overhaul Commodore 128 and 64 Keyboards for folks who are having problems. I also work on other keyboards when the mood strikes me. In the end, the problems I run into are just about the same on all of them. Rusted Springs, and DIRT inside the contact areas!! Keyboard Killers!!

It seems like some folks believe that a keyboard that's dirty on the outside, is also dirty on the inside. They use all sorts of solutions to clean up the keys, and they THINK that is going to make the keyboard work better.

Well folks, it won't make your keyboard work better. All it will do is make your keys look clean... *and*, if you use any cleaner with WATER in it, you are also setting up a RUST system inside the key spring areas.

I believe that I have overhauled around 100 keyboards in the last five years. Every one of them had just about the same problem. RUST in the key springs, and all sorts of things in the key contact areas (inside the circuit board case).

Hair was the biggest problem for bad contacts... YUP, you heard me correctly HAIR inside the circuit board (under the keys and DOWN inside the electronics area).

Let's talk here folks: Those signs that say "No Eating, Drinking or Smoking around the Computer," are pure BULL. Don't believe a word of it! The stuff that screws up a computer keyboard is DIRT, HAIR, and Water from cleaning solutions that are used to keep them (clean looking)...

Smoke your butt off, (the keys and screen will get yellow). Eat up a storm, (the crumbs will accumulate down at the bottom of the space bar). Spill Coffee or Tea or what ever on the keyboard... It will make it sticky but it will not get into the GUTS where the electronic contacts live!

De-Natured Alcohol is your life blood cleaner for keyboards. NOT rubbing Alcohol, and NOT spray cleaners of any kind that contain WATER!!

If you spill a drink on your keyboard, wash the sucker off with DE-Natured Alcohol. Drench the darn thing with the liquid, and if you have blower or vacuum cleaner available, blow or suck the excess out of the keys.

The GUTS of a keyboard are protected by many different things. The outside is just for SHOW.... It's what happens UNDER the keys that makes the computer operate. DEEP inside is a circuit board. The keys you push contact carbon pads on the circuit board. Each key has a little carbon pad on the end of it. When that carbon pad of the key touches the carbon contacts on the circuit board, (Letters jump up on your screen). Each KEY has a spring under it... Those springs are metal (oh wow).....

Water based cleaners RUST metal springs. Not just because they contain water... NO, NO, NO.... It's because they contain CLEANERS in a water based solution. The stuff ATTACKS the springs... There is darn near no way to rinse those cleaners out from under the keys or the springs.

De-natured Alcohol will dry without leaving a film, and it will dry quickly enough to not start the "electro chemical process) which we call RUST.

Q: DANIEL DEADEYE @ TCP. I spilled chocolate milk on one of my keyboards and damaged it permanently. I wish I knew how to fix that one. I'll just pay $15 to get another one from a computer resale shop.

Q: By PEBBLES @ DMB. Mike I know hair is a major problem for me. Not my own hair though. I have three cats. And yes they manage to walk all over the keyboard. The walking I don't think does that much damage since it is the same as typing. What I really wanted to know is where can I get a cover or something so that it at least keeps that damn hair out?

Too bad I can't find those over the entire keyboard plastic over lays. They are all made for a standard 101. All I can think of if worse come to worse is to buy two of three of them and improve with cutting and pasting so to speaks. Taking parts of it and cutting them apart to fit the keyboard for my 128D.
--Pebbly-Poo-+

A: Well Pebbly Poo, when I HAD a cover for my computer (Pre-Hurricane Andrew) it was nothing more than a bath towel that I had cut and sewn the corners on. I made it a bit like a form fitting sheet. I put elastic on the corners and sewed the elastic into the gathers on each edge. Worked perfectly for dust and dirt, and did a fair job of keeping mositure and spills containted.

I never could see spending good money for a cover I could make myself. There are lots and lots of materials that are moisture proof and easy to hand or machine sew (I do both)...

I never saw any need for a cover that I could see through..... Besides, a custom fit cover is just that (custom fit). You can notch the areas where the cables go, you can tailor it for a perfect fit, you can even cut out fancy letters and put your name on the cover... Class!!

If you can't sew, just throw a towel over the computer and tuck under the edges.. does the same thing (just isn't CLASS)!

SMS MIKE (SUPER Skumbag of the South)

Q: By ARTLOVER @ DMB. Bird feathers are fun. Expecialy considering I don't even own any birds (yet). A friend does though, and I end up with feathers.

BTW: spilling coffee or whatever on your keyboard may not get into the keyboard itself, but it sure will get on your mother-board (at least in the case of C-64's and flat 128's. I spilt a glass of iced-tea on my 128 once, I had a heck of a time trying to get the board clean under the two ram banks

A: And a Ho, Ho, Ho to you Art... I know the feeling! I dumped about half a can of beer on my 128 keyboard two months ago. Had to stand the sucker up on the front edge and let the beer run out of the case.

After that, I tore the darn thing apart and drilled "Drain Holes" under the front half of the Mother Board and in the very forward edge just below the the cover joint..... Knowing me, it's going to happen again!!!

It didn't bother me to get the keyboard wet, it's just the darn alcohol abuse that's hard to live with.. Lost half a can of perfectly good beer!

Clean up is fairly simple on my machines. I don't run that darn static/heat shield on any of my boards. Pop the cover and blow them out... DONE!

Never could find a reason for that darn piece of tin anyway. The system runs a whole bunch cooler without it.

SMS MIKE (SUPER Skumbag of the South)

Jeff Still At LOADSTAR, Not Centsible Systems

Centsible Systems keeps receiving mail addressed to Centsible Systems and all the letters start out "Dear Jeff..." Please write to Jeff Jones at the LOADSTAR address.

LAW 3: The effort required to correct a project that is off course increases geometrically with time. Corollary 1: The longer you wait the harder it gets. Corollary 2: If you wait until the project is completed, its too late. Corollary 3: Do it now regardless of the embarrassment. LAW 4: The project purpose statement you wrote and understand will be seen differently by everyone else. Corollary 1: If you explain the purpose so clearly that no one could possibly misunderstand, someone will. Corollary 2: If you do something that you are sure will meet everyone's approval, someone will not like it.

Wraptor Saves the Day!

From: SOUTHERN BOY
Date: Jan 14, 1996 7:31 AM

I have a GEOS problem that I can't find an answer to. A disk I was using became corrupted, however, the files are okay. When I open it I can get to the desktop, but then it will say Disk Error, etc. Is there some way I can transfer these files to another disk without opening onto desktop? These are geoPAINT files and I was able to successfully transfer them to geoVIEWER and re-save them onto a Doodle file. Is there some way to transfer it back to GEOS? Is there a transfer program out there that could help? Or if you could refer me to another member who might be able to help, I would greatly appreciate it!

Jeff: *Try archiving the files to another disk with WRAPTOR, available on recent back issues of LOADSTAR or our BBS. It's not as finicky as GEOS, and should get the files. Just make sure the files aren't locked. Wraptor doesn't recognize locked GEOS files as of yet.*

From: SOUTHERN BOY
Date: Jan 21, 1996 9:27 PM
Subj: WRAPTOR! WRESCUE!

Thanks for your help and advice on using Wraptor! I was able to transfer the files and save a very important. Thanks for the Wraptor info. As a matter of fact, I just received that program and had not even thought of using it to transfer the disk. I'll give it a try. You really saved me on this one! I'd been working for months on these two floor plans and naturally when I got them done, GEOS had to throw a wrench into things! I'll let you know how it works out. Thanks again, Jeff!

Paxtron Question

From KoolD
Subj:Grapevine question

I have read that Mr. Kornreich has started a new shop (Paxtron Corp.). I also read that Mr. Kornreich was going to settle the old accounts from the defunct Grapevine Group. I have written to him as the article in Commodore World Magazine suggested and have never received a reply. What do you know of this mess? Will we that were scr@*%# ever get our equipment we paid for? How can Mr. Kornreich have the inventory and assets to start a new company but not be able to send me and others the stuff we paid cold hard cash for? I for one will not order from PAXTRON CORP. until my account with the Grapevine Group has been settled. I would appreciate any help you can give me in this matter Jeff. Maybe publishing this in the newsletter and sending him a copy might get something done. I think I'll write to Commodore World Magazine as well. Later Jeff.

Jeff: *One of Paxtron's owners did run the now defunct Grapevine. Well, I'd keep trying to settle old accounts. The noisy wheel gets the refund, y'know. I have to admit though that beyond the Commodore World article in Issue #7, I know nothing about Paxtron.*

Rep. Jerrold Nadler Turns Web Page Black To Protest Internet Censorship

Washington, D.C. -- Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) became the first Member of Congress to protest censorship language in the recently passed telecommunications bill by turning his Internet homepage to black. "I am proud to join the thousands of groups and individuals who are committed to freedom of expression, and are turning their web pages black to show their opposition to cyber-censorship," said Rep. Nadler. The telecommunications bill, which Rep. Nadler voted against, included language that will result in the restriction of a free flow of information on the Internet. The provision stipulates that "indecent" materials cannot be distributed over the Internet to minors. "While the stated intent of this provision is to limit minors' access to 'indecent' material, in fact, its effect will be to limit everyone's constitutionally guaranteed right to free expression," said Rep. Nadler. "This provision will dangerously constrain free electronic speech. It is the cyberspace equivalent to book burning, and those who claim to support the First Amendment have a responsibility to speak out against this harmful measure," said Rep. Nadler. Rep. Nadler's web address is: http://www.house.gov/nadler/welcome.html Rep. Nadler's e-mail address is: nadler@hr.house.gov

U.S. Representative Jerrold Nadler 8Th Congressional District - NEW YORK 109 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-5635 * e-mail - nadler@hr.house.gov. Amy Green (202) 225-5635 Wednesday, February 7, 1996 Abby Russell (212) 334-3207

Chronology Of The Communications Decency Act

Feb 8, '96President Clinton signs the Telecomm bill into law. Feb 1, '96: The House and Senate pass the Telecomm Bill (S652/HR1555) 414-16 and 91-5. Jan 31, '96: The House and Senate prepare to signoff on the conference report for the Telecomm bill and rush a vote to the floor. Dec 7, '95: The House half of the Telecomm conference committee votes the "indecency" standard for online speech into the Telecomm Deregulation bill. Sep 26, '95: Sen. Russ Feingold urges committee members to drop Managers Amendment and the CDA from the Telecommunications Deregulation bill Aug 4, '95: House passes HR1555 which goes into conference with S652. Aug 4, '95: House votes to attach Managers Amendment (which contains new criminal penalties for speech online) to Telecommunications Reform bill (HR1555). Aug 4, '95: House votes 421-4 to attach HR1978 to Telecommunications Reform bill (HR1555). Jun 30, '95: Cox and Wyden introduce the "Internet Freedom and Family Empowerment Act" (HR 1978) as an alternative to the CDA. Jun 21, '95: Several prominent House members publicly announce their opposition to the CDA, including Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-GA), Rep. Chris Cox (R-CA), and Rep. Ron Wyden (D-OR). Jun 14, '95 The Senate passes the CDA as attached to the Telecomm reform bill (S 652) by a vote of 84-16. The Leahy bill (S 714) is not passed, but is supported by 16 Senators who understand the Internet. May 24, '95 The House Telecomm Reform bill (HR 1555) leaves committee in the House with the Leahy alternative attached to it, thanks to Rep. Ron Klink of (D-PA). The Communications Decency Act is not attached to it. Apr 7, '95 Sen. Leahy (D-VT) introduces S.714, an alternative to the Exon/Gorton bill, which commissions the Dept. of Justice to study the problem to see if additional legislation (such as the CDA) is necessary. Mar 23, '95 S314 amended and attached to the telecommunications reform bill by Sen. Gorton (R-WA). Language provides some provider protection, but continues to infringe upon email privacy and free speech. Feb 21, '95 HR1004 referred to the House Commerce and Judiciary committees Feb 21, '95 HR1004 introduced by Rep. Johnson (D-SD) Feb 1, '95 S314 referred to the Senate Commerce committee Feb 1, '95 S314 introduced by Sen. Exon (D-NE) and Gorton (R-WA).

For More Information

Web Sites (roughly in alphabetical order) URL:http://www.vtw.org/ URL:http://www.cdt.org/cda.html URL:http://www.cpsr.org/ URL:http://www.eff.org/pub/Alerts/ URL:http://epic.org/ Email: cda-info@cdt.org (General CDA information) cda-stat@cdt.org (Current status of the CDA)

List Of Protesting Organizations And Businesses

In order to use the net more effectively, several organizations have joined forces on a single Congressional net campaign to stop the Communications Decency Act. Because the list is so long, we've been forced to omit many fine organizations. See the VTW Free Speech Web Page at URL:http://www.vtw.org/speech/ for the whole list.

Public Interest Organizations Businesses Voters Telecommunications Watch (VTW)| ECHO (www.echonyc.com) | Hotwired (www.hotwired.com) Center For Democracy And Technology (CDT)| Mindvox (www.phantom.com) Center for Public Representation (CPR)| Panix (www.panix.com) Computer Professionals for| The WELL (www.well.com) Social Responsibility (CPSR)| Wired (www.wired.com) Cyber-Rights Campaign Electronic Fronter Foundation (EFF), and independent regional Electronic Frontier organizations Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) Feminists for Free ExpressionHands! Off The Net Internet Users Consortium (IUC)Joint Artists' and Music The Libertarian Party (LP) Promotions Political Action National Campaign for Freedom of Expression Committee (JAMPAC) National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC) National Gay and Lesbian National Writers Union (NWU) Task Force (NGLTF) People for the American Way (PFAW) Republican Liberty Caucus

LAW 5: Measurable benefits are real. Intangible benefits are not measurable, thus intangible benefits are not real. Corollary 1: Intangible benefits are real if you can prove that they are real. LAW 6: Anyone who can work effectively on a project part-time certainly does not have enough to do now. Corollary 1: If a boss will not give a worker a full-time job, you shouldn't either. Corollary 2: If the project participant has a time conflict, the work given by the full-time boss will not suffer.

Letters to the Editor

From: GERRY ST. PIERRE

I agree with what you said about a need for a new p-code operating system. I think something that resided from $8000 - $9fff and maybe even uses the RAM under $A000-$Bfff is what would work best. It would be like a Toolbox, but more expensive. It should work for ML or BASIC, and have routines to handle keyboard, joystick2, and Mouse 1. Perhaps we can get the Commodore community that settles on this standard should include a Print Driver in it, so that there is a standard for print drivers. It should also be run from a JUMP TABLE like the Kernal so that it can be updated. I think one of the best things about the CMD accelerators will be the account of cycles between Interrupts. Currently there are roughly 16,667 cycles between IRQ requests and Rasterirf you are only using 1 per screen drawing). On the 20 Mhz system there will be roughly 333,333 cycles between interrupts. Oh here is a semi-complaint.

I really admire the programs that John Serafino puts out, but what does he do to his program names? On his mini-dex program, I created my own, which I wanted to make the default. No problem, just change the default dex name to another and change mine to default. Wait a minute the computer can't find the programs. They list in the directory, but if I issue a @R0 new=default, I get a file not found error. Please help. Talk to you later Gerry

Jeff: John Serafino's filenames are padded with spaces, and are all 16 characters in length. If you rename them, rename them with spaces at the end. As for a new operating system standard, the C-64 needs a disk operating system with a main system, and extra powers linked to it the program, or called as needed.

From: RANDY HARRIS : I have been a C= user since 1983. I use my multiple C= setups everyday. I am currently the president of SWRAP User Group, Inc. in Chicago. (Southwest Regional Association of Programmers) Several of our members are Loadstar subscribers. SWRAP recently sent in the money for a subscription. I too will have the money to subscribe soon. One of our members printed out the text of issue #137 which I just read. It was in there that I found the # for the Loadstar BBS. I especially applaud your support of the 1581 and FD-x000 CMD drives. I wish more software was put on these disks. Being a GEOS user primarily, I'm glad to see you may be putting more GEOS stuff on the disks. That is my PRIMARY interest, if not SOLE interest. If directory sorting was a problem when using GEOS programs, then you should be using DEDIT v7, both for the 64 and 128, available for download on GEnie. I can't say from experience for the 64 version, but the 128 version WILL work with GEOS files when editing a directory. It works great on CMD devices, any number, and works VERY well. It's what I use when making the SWRAP disk of the month for our members (we honor copyrights and don't pirate!). We demo Loadstar frequently, and encourage members to subscribe. Also, you may want to update our address you show on your user group database disk, if you haven't already. We changed our mailing address a few months ago because many people did not identify our Bedford Park IL address with the fact that we are a CHICAGO based user group. Our new mailing address is:

SWRAP User Group, Inc. PO BOX 528232 CHICAGO IL 60652-8232 My e-mail address is Chetris1@genie.com phone is 1-312-375-9017

From: THE FEZ: I noticed that "Wraptor" is now in your U/D section. Is it now public domain? If not, are there any plans to release a PD version, say without the ability to archive, only the ability to unwraptor files? I have both of the versions that you released, courtesy my Loadstar subscription, and I use Wraptor before I try any other archiver, especially with GEOS files. The main reason I'm asking is that I'd like to put it in the U/D section of the Amiga board here in town that I subop at, and would like to include it when we start up an Image BBS down here. Let me know, okay? I was also wondering if it would be okay to put Loadstar #105 on my BBS. Let me know.

Jeff: Well we can't publish a new type of archiver without making it available to BBSs that will use it. Wraptor is copyrighted, but freely redistributable in the SDA form that it appears on our BBS. LOADSTAR #105 is redistributable, but only in its entirety, and not for profit.

You, Your Commodore Computer, and the Internet, Part 4: Getting Online

by Jim Brain. This morning, before we start, I would like to address a few things. I have had some people ask about RPI modems. If you modem or modem manual mentions RPI at all, it is almost surely an RPI modem and will not work acceptably on your computer. If possible, return it. Also, LOADSTAR has just finished their 4 part series on Dave's Term, which is on the LOADSTAR 128 disks. The 128 users in the class may want to try it.

Now, class, I am a little behind where I would like to be in the class schedule, so I am going to move quickly over the topic of getting your system setup to access the Internet. For those who have problems after our initial discussion, please see me or send me some mail. To access the Internet, you must have a computer system that is working and configured correctly. This can be a taxing procedure, but the following should get you closer to success. Load your software and then configure the following items:

1. Set up your modem type and interface. For CBM modem users, simply select your modem type. For normal interface Hayes compatible modem users, select the type supporting the maximum baud rate your modem can support or 2400 bps, which ever is smaller. For Swiftlink users, select either "Swiftlink" or HAYES 38.4". In NT9.5, the "Terminal Params" and then "Modem type" selections will get you to the correct screen.

2. Set up for 80 column screen if possible. Set up ANSI or VT100 character sets, if available, and select colors, if you want. The NT9.5 "Terminal type", "ASCII table", and "80 column font" options off the "Terminal params" menu will provide the correct screens.

3. Select the correct baud rate. For all modems 2400 bps or less, select the maximum bps rate of the modem. For 2400-9600 bps modems with the compression option and all modems greater than 9600 bps, select the maximum bps rate the software will support. For NT9.5, the maximum is 38,400 bps and is under choice "Baud rate" on the second page of the "Terminal params" menu.

4. Select the correct RS-232 parameters. These may differ depending on what service you call, but 8 data bits, no parity, and 1 stop bit are common. Called 8N1, this option is called "Comm parameters" on the second page of the NT9.5 "Terminal params" menu.

Now, the terminal program should be set up to call your Internet provider. However, there are a few checks you can make. For all modems, a quick call to a friend's computer or a local BBS can verify correct operation, and for the CBM 1670 and all Hayes compatible modems, a quick:

at

typed while in terminal mode ("Terminal mode" off the main menu on NT 9.5) should respond with:

OK

If you see "aatt" instead of "at", turn off "local echo" Remember what function turns it off, as some services, like GEnie, use local echo for some operations.

If the modem does not seem to be working, check to make sure it is plugged in and on. Also, some non- Swiftlink interfaces have switches that control signaling lines. Read up on those. One may need to be flipped. Also, some interfaces treat one of the signaling lines backwards, which is why some software has an "inverse" modem type. In NT9.5, the types are "HAYES 12INV" and HAYES 24INV". You might try that option.

If all else fails, contact someone with a like setup who can assist you. Some problems are very subtle. Also, there could be errors in this lesson.

Now, if all succeeds, you are ready to dial up your Internet Provider. you will need to fill in a dialing entry for the provider and enter the following information:

Name Phone number Baud rate RS-232 settings Use Local Echo

In NT9.5, hit the F4 function key while in "Autodial menu" off the main menu. It will prompt you for these parameters. After that has been done, simply dial that entry in you dialing menu.

LAW 7: The greater the project's technical complexity, the less you need a technician to manage it. Corollary 1: Get the best manager you can. The manager will get the technicians. Corollary 2: The reverse of corollary 1 is almost never true. LAW 8: A carelessly planned project will take three times longer to complete than expected. A carefully planned project will only take twice as long. Corollary 1: If nothing can possibly go wrong, it will anyway. LAW 9: When the project is going well, something will go wrong. Corollary 1: When things cannot get any worse, they will. Corollary 2: When things appear to be going better, you have overlooked something.

If all succeeds, and no busy signal keeps you off-line, you will be connected to your Internet provider.

It is time I note something to the class. Since there are so many ways to connect to the Internet, there is an infinite number a descriptions on how to do this. For the class, I will demonstrate accessing the Internet from a UNIX "shell" account. If you are using a commercial service, or a BBS, your method will differ, but the ideas will be the same.

If you dialed directly into the provider, a login prompt will be shown on screen. If you used a network service like TymNet or SprintNet, you will be presented with a "service" prompt, which will allow you to choose the service or provider you wish to use. Some network services will need authentication before displaying the "service" prompt. In any case, the provider should have sent you the required information to fill in these prompts.

At the login prompt, you must enter the login the provider gave you. Then, a Password prompt will be displayed. Enter your password as given to you by the provider, and you will be authenticated. For example, on the UNIX shell account, the following is displayed on screen:

BSDI BSD/OS 2.0 (conch.aa.msen.com) (ttyp0)

login: brain Password:

Note that the password you type will not be echoed back to your screen. In some cases, "*" characters will be echoed for every character you type. This is normal.

You are now on-line. On some systems, a menu will be displayed, while on other systems, like a UNIX shell account, the UNIX shell prompt will be shown, like so:

Conch The HAWK 1>

At this point, the world is at your fingertips. Start to navigate around the system if you have menus. Things to look for include an Internet sub-menu, the email sub-menu, the administrative/customer service sub-menu, the "workspace" sub-menu, and the "end session" menu item.

Either way, the first item of business is to send someone some email. On the UNIX shell (simply called shell from now on), type:

pine

and hit return. This will introduce you to the PINE (Pine is not ELM (ELM = Electronic Mailer, my personal favorite email program)) email program. PINE is good for the beginning Internet user. Whatever your email program, play around. You aren't going to hurt the program. Send someone (or yourself) an email message.

That is all for this period. I want to end in time to answer any questions the class may have. Next time, we will explore the PINE email system, the ELM email system, and tackle FTP (File Transfer Protocol).

-- Jim Brain, Embedded Systems Designer, Brain Innovations, Inc. (BII) brain@mail.msen.com

LOADSTAR Will Be Leaving GEnie Soon

GEnie was recently purchased by a new parent company, and has changed its gameplan. They seem very happy and excited about their new higher rates and extended hours. Since the minimum charged to my Credit card will shortly exceed my average maximum bill, I've decided that GEnie is no longer worth it. As of March I'll soon be LOADSTAR@SOFTDISK.COM.

Software Announcement

Parallel Performance Group, of Sedona, AZ, announces a series of FREE E-Mail Newsletters on high-tech software topics. Below is a list of the topics discussed in these Newsletters:

Business Process Reengineering Real-Time Multiprocessing, Uniprocessing, DSP, Multiprocessing, Neural Networks, Fuzzy Logic, Fuzzy Control, Parallel Processing Animation, Solid Modelling, Distributed Processing, Mechanical Design, Automation Object-Oriented CASE Tools, CAD for Industrial and Architectural Design, Project Management, Discrete and Continuous Simulation, Image Processing, Medical Imaging, Graphical Application Interfaces, Virtual Reality, Statistical Analysis, Volume Visualization.

To receive more information, please send any e-mail to info@ppgsoft.com; this will return a more detailed listing of the Newsletters, and instructions on how to receive sample copies and subscriptions.

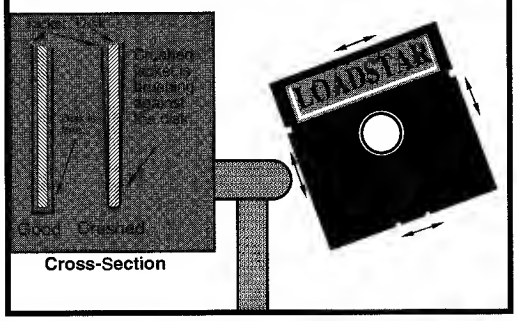
Visit Our Web site at http://www.ppgsoft.com/ppgsoft for detailed information on high-tech software products, presented with pleasing professional graphics.

Oscar Party On LOADSTAR's BBS With Up To Date Nomination File

by Jeff Jones. If you're planning on having an Oscar Party, download oscar party and print out your ballots. J&F has thrown oscar parties for the past seven years and they are an official hoot -- and I don't even *appreciate* the Oscars. I don't care about a bunch of famous people patting each other on the back. I *do* care about betting on the event and competing with Fender. *One day* I'll beat Fender at something.

Disk Trouble?

Every copy of LOADSTAR leaves J & F Publishing as a verified okay disk set. 3.5-inch disks are virtually trouble-free because they are difficult to damage, even when mishandled. Unfortunately some 5.25-inch disks may become crushed in the mail and give READ ERRORS because they have trouble spinning. Fixing these crushed disks is quite easy. Just run the areas indicated along a hard edge such as a table. This should uncrimp the disk.



Cross-Section

THE UNDERGROUND

The 8-bit Commodore Mini-Mag!

The Underground is a bi-monthly publication with articles featuring reviews, PD/Shareware, BASIC and machine language tutorials, Geos, telecommunications, international stuff, news and tips. The Underground is a publication created by people who refuse to let their 8-bit computers gather dust, and is priced low enough for even the most frugal users. Try a sample issue to see if the Underground is worth your while. You'll be glad you did.

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All prices in US Funds

Send check or Money Order (US funds) to:

THE UNDERGROUND
4574 Via Santa Maria
Santa Maria, CA 93455
USA

LAW 10: Project teams detest weekly progress reporting because it so vividly manifests their lack of progress. LAW 11: Projects progress rapidly until they are 90 percent complete. Then they remain 90 percent complete forever. LAW 12: If project content is allowed to change freely, the rate of change will exceed the rate of progress. LAW 13: If the user does not believe in the system, a parallel system will be developed. Neither system will work very well. LAW 14: Benefits achieved are a function of the thoroughness of the post-audit check. Corollary 1: The prospect of an independent post-audit provides the project team with a powerful incentive to deliver a good system on schedule within budget. LAW 15: No law is immutable.

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(Specify computer serial number and drive model)

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Miscellaneous Hardware

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geoMakeBoot (Makes Bootable copies)	$12.95
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geoSHELL V2.2 (CLI for GEOS)	$24.95
International FONTPACK	$25.00
Perfect Print LQ for GEOS (Laser-like output)	$49.95
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Anatomy of the 1541	$12.00
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TWS 128 w/Speller (Busy Bee)	$39.00
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Telecommunications

Aprotek MiniModem C-24 (C= ready, 2400 baud)	$69.00
Aprotek MiniModem C (C= ready, 1200 baud)	$50.00
Aprotek Modem adapter (C= to Ext. PC Modem)	$20.00
BOCA 2400 Baud Modem	$69.00
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BOCA 14.4K bps FaxModem	$129.00
BOCA 14.4K w/SwiftLink & Cable	$159.00
BOCA V.34 28.8K bps FaxModem	$219.00
BOCA V.34 w/SwiftLink & Cable	$249.00
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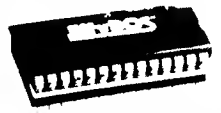
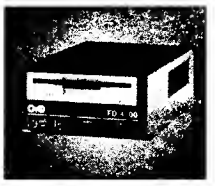


JiffyDOS

Increase Speed Up to 1500% while retaining 100% compatibility

- Speeds up Loading, Saving, Verifying, Formatting and Reading/Writing of Program, Sequential, User and Relative files unlike cartridges which only speed up Loading and Saving of PRG files
- Built-in DOS Wedge plus 17 additional features including file copier, text dump, printer toggle, and redefinable function keys make using your computer easier and more convenient
- ROM upgrade installs easily into most computers and disk drives. Supports C-64, 64C, SX-64, C-128, 128-D, 1541, 1541C, 1541-II,1571, 1581 and more.

FD Series



3.2 and 1.6 MB 3.5" Floppy Drives

The FD-2000 and FD-4000 disk drives utilize today's latest 3.5 inch disk drive technology. FD-2000's support 800K (1581 style) and 1.6 MB (High Density) formats, while the FD-4000 also offers support for the 3.2 MB (Enhanced Density) disk format. Fast and reliable, they support 1541, 1571 and 1581 style partitions, Native Mode partitioning and can actually read and write 1581 disks. FD's feature built-in JiffyDOS, SWAP button and optional Real Time Clock. High capacity, speed and compatibility make the FD right for every application, including GEOS.

RAMLink

Power-Backed Expandable REU

The fastest possible form of storage, RAMLink provides instant access to files and retains data while your computer is turned off. Easy to use and expandable up to 16 MB, RAMLink utilizes the same powerful operating system found in CMD Hard Drives. Unlike Commodore REU's which are compatible with less than 1% of commercial software, RAMLink supports more than 80% of the commercial titles. RAMLink also offers built-in JiffyDOS Kernal, SWAP feature, reset button, enable/disable switch, pass-thru port and RAM port for REU/GEORAM use. RAMLink offers maximum speed, expandability and compatibility with all types of software and hardware including GEOS.

HD Series

SCSI Hard Drive for the C-64/128

HD Series Hard Drives are available in capacities up to 1 GB, are fully partitionable, and can emulate 1541, 1571, & 1581 disks while Native partitions utilize MS-DOS-style subdirectories. HD's connect easily to the serial bus or parallel via RAMLink. Includes built-in JiffyDOS, SWAP feature and RTC. HD's offer superior compatibility with most commercial software including BBS, Productivity and GEOS. And with new pricing, HD Series drives offer the lowest cost per megabyte of any C64/128 storage device.

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